sisted support from the player's hands. The musician **100**, having both hands free, may manipulate the guitar strings **116** to create new techniques and sounds previously unknown to any player. In addition, because the guitar **102** is maintained in a substantially perpendicular orientation, the player has maximum visibility of the entire playing surface, i.e., front surface **106**, guitar strings **116** and fretted surface **112**.

Upon completion of the musician's performance, or upon desired storage of the guitar **102**, the attachment **122** is rotated back to its inoperative position overlying the rear surface **108** of the guitar. To inactivate the supporting device **120**, the musician **100** merely grabs the attachment **122** and slides it laterally along the rod **132**, so as to compress the spring **133** and disengaging the projection **134** from the opening **136** of the mounting block **126**. Once disengaged, the attachment **122** is rotated about rod **132** to its inoperative position adjacent the rear surface **108** of the guitar **102**, as shown in FIG. 2. The guitar **102** may now be played in the conventional manner, where it is arranged in a generally vertical orientation, or conveniently stored in a case without the necessity of providing specially constructed storage cases to accommodate the supporting device **120**.

In accordance with the present invention, there has thus far been described a guitar constructed from an instrument body having front and rear surfaces, a neck extending from the instrument body and having a fretted surface, sound producing means extending over a portion of the front surface and the fretted surface, and a device mounted onto the rear surface for positioning the instrument body in an angular orientation to a guitar player's body, the device including a pair of spaced-apart mounting blocks attached to the rear surface, a rod extending between the mounting blocks, an attachment movably mounted to the rod for rotational movement between an operative and inoperative position and for lateral movement between a locked and unlocked position, the attachment overlying the rear surface when in the inoperative position and substantially perpendicular to the rear surface when in the operative position, the attachment having a portion engaging the player's body when in the operative position for maintaining the instrument body in the angular orientation, the portion disengaging from the player's body when in said operative position for maintaining the instrument body in other than the angular orientation, and a projection extending from the attachment and receivable within one of the mounting blocks when the attachment is rotated about the rod into the operative position and laterally moved along the rod into the locked position by the biasing means, whereby the attachment is locked in a position substantially perpendicular to the rear surface.

Although the invention herein has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and application of the present invention. For example, although the invention has generally been described as maintaining the guitar body substantially perpendicular to the player's body, the invention may maintain the guitar body at other angular orientations with equal utility and possessing the disclosed advantages that result therefrom. It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative embodiments and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A stringed musical instrument comprising an instrument body having front and rear surfaces, sound producing means extending over a portion of said front surface, and a device mounted onto said rear surface for positioning said instrument body at an angular orientation to a player's body, said device including attachment means movable between an inoperative position overlying said rear surface and an operative position at an angle to said rear surface, a pair of spaced-apart mounting blocks attached to said rear surface and support means coupled to said mounting blocks for rotationally supporting therebetween said attachment means, said attachment means engaging said player's body when in said operative position for maintaining said instrument body in said angular orientation and disengaging from said player's body when in said inoperative position for maintaining said instrument body in other than said angular orientation.

2. The stringed musical instrument of claim **1** wherein said support means comprises a rod extending between said mounting blocks.

3. The stringed musical instrument of claim **2** wherein said attachment means is movably mounted on said rod for rotational movement between said operative and inoperative positions and for lateral movement between a locked and unlocked position.

4. The stringed musical instrument of claim **3** wherein said attachment means is mounted on said rod by a pair of spaced-apart slide blocks.

5. The stringed musical instrument of claim **3** wherein said device further includes biasing means for biasing said attachment means towards said locked position.

6. The stringed musical instrument of claim **5** wherein said biasing means comprises a spring located about said rod and arranged between said mounting blocks and said attachment means.

7. The stringed musical instrument of claim **5** wherein said attachment means includes a projection extending therefrom and engagable with one of said mounting blocks when said attachment means is rotated about said rod into said operative position while being laterally moved along said rod into said locked position by said biasing means, whereby said attachment means is locked in said operative position.

8. The stringed musical instrument of claim **7** wherein said projection comprises a portion of an L-shaped member by which said attachment means is mounted on said rod.

9. The stringed musical instrument of claim **7** wherein said one of said mounting blocks has an opening for receiving said projection when said attachment means is rotated into said operative position.

10. The stringed musical instrument of claim **9** wherein said rod extends through the center of said opening and through the center of said projection along one of its axes, whereby said projection is received within said opening when said attachment means is in said operative position.

11. The stringed musical instrument of claim **10** wherein said rod extends off-center through said projection along the other of its axes, whereby said projection is prevented from being received within said opening when said attachment means is in said inoperative position.